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DE RUEHSL #0491 2431425
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
P 311425Z AUG 07
FM AMEMBASSY BRATISLAVA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1171
INFO RUEHZG/NATO EU COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUEHSA/AMEMBASSY PRETORIA PRIORITY 0005
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY 0063
RUEHAM/AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY 0012
RUEHLB/AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PRIORITY 0009
RUEHEG/AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY 0024
RUEHDM/AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY 0025
RUEHTV/AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY 0083

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRATISLAVA 000491

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STATE FOR NEA, EUR/NCE, DRL

E.O. 12958: DECL: 08/30/2017
TAGS: [EUN](#) [JA](#) [KDEM](#) [PHUM](#) [PREL](#) [SA](#) [LO](#)
SUBJECT: SLOVAKIA SUPPORTIVE OF EU DEMARCHE ON SEIF

REF: STATE 119436

Classified By: Ambassador Rodolphe M. Vallee, for Reasons 1.4 (b) and (d)

¶1. (c) DCM, accompanied by PolEcon Chief, delivered reftel demarche to Head of the Asia and Oceania division at the MFA, Drahomir Stos, on August 27. (Both the Director and Deputy of the Middle East Division and the head of the Human Rights office were on leave.) Stos was not familiar with the case of Seif, nor was he aware of the planned EU demarche, but said he would check on the status of the reported demarche and suggested that the Slovaks would be supportive of EU actions to draw attention to Seif's plight. With respect to a national statement, Stos explained that it was not the practice of the Ministry to comment on individual human rights' cases. The DCM provided Stos additional background on Seif, based on his personal acquaintance with him, and urged that the GOS consider making a broader statement regarding human rights issues in Syria. In a follow-up exchange, Stos confirmed Slovakia's full support for the EU demarche in Damascus, but reiterated that the GOS had no plans to issue a national statement. Comment: In light of Slovakia's plans to seek a seat on the Human Rights Council, we will raise with appropriate GOS officials the importance of adopting a more pro-active approach to individual, as well as broader, instances of human rights abuse. End Comment.)
VALLEE